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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
ACDA-07 SSM-03 /073 W
----------111441 281418Z /53
O R 281345Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4406
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3055

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC MOPS PINT LE PLO SY
SUBJ: HEAVY INTRA-PALESTINIAN FIGHTING IN SOUTH BEIRUT

1. SUMMARY: HEAVIEST FIGHTING IN BEIRUT AREA SINCE MAQASSID HOSPITAL FIGHT IN APRIL ERUPTED NIGHT OF JUNE 27-28, ESSENTIALLY BETWEEN PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS AND PRO-SYRIAN SAIQA. TOTAL CASUALTIES PROBABLY OVER 50. END SUMMARY.

2. ANTICIPATIONS. SAIQA OFFICE IN SHATILA AREA WAS BLOWN UP BY EXPLOSIVES DURING DAY OF JUNE 27. BY EARLY EVENING, SEVERAL EYEWITNESS HAD SEEN ROADBLOCKS BEING PUT UP IN AND AROUND SHATILA AND SABRA CAMPS AND THERE WAS GENERAL ANTICIPATION OF FIGHTING.

3. FIGHTING BEGAN IN SMALL WAY AT APPROXIMATELY 2100 LOCAL,
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WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE AND LIGHT ARTILLERY. HIGH POINTS IN FIGHTING OCCURRED AT ABOUT 2300 LOCAL JUNE 27 AND 0100 LOCAL JUNE 28, WITH HEAVY USE OF SMALL ARMS AND ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCES, HOWEVER, NO MORTARS OR ARTILLERY WERE USED. FIGHTING CENTERED IN AREA IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF SHATILA AROUND BURJ AL-BARAJINAH ROAD, BUT THERE WERE CLASHES IN OTHER PERIPHERAL AREAS OF SABRA AND

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SHATILA AS WELL.

4. HEAVY CASUALTIES. AS OF EARLY JUNE 28, SOME 25 CASUALTIES HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO AUH, BARBIR, AND MAQASSID HOSPITALS. EIGHT OF THESE, INCLUDING TWO CIVILIANS, DIED AT THE HOSPITALS. NEARLY ALL WERE PFLP MEMBERS. SAIQA WOUNDED PRESUMABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO MILITARY HOSPITALS, FOR WHICH WE HAVE NO FIGURES. WE ALSO HAVE NO INFORMATION ON NUMBER KILLED ON THE BATTLEFIELD. IT THEREFORE LIKELY THAT MORE THAN 50 FIGHTERS ON BOTH SIDES WERE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY WOUNDED.

5. DESPITE REPORT ON RADIO ISRAEL AT 0700 JUNE 28, WE ARE TOLD BY LEBANESE ARMY G-2 THAT ARAB SECURITY FORCE WAS ON ALERT, BUT DID NOT REPEAT NOT GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FIGHTING. RADIO ISRAEL REPORTED ALSO THAT FATAH ATTEMPTED TO INTERVENE TO STOP THE FIGHTING, UNSUCCESSFULLY. WE BELIEVE THIS PLAUSIBLE AND LIKELY, BUT HAVE NO CONFIRMATION AT THIS TIME.

6. LOCAL SOURCES AND RADIO ISRAEL BOTH REPORT HOUSE-TO-HOUSE FIGHTING, PARTICULARLY THAT SAIQA EJECTED REJECTIONISTS FROM SEVERAL BUILDINGS ALONG BEIRUT AIRPORT ROAD.

7. COMMENT: FLARE-UP FOLLOWED UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS BY SAIQA TO REESTABLISH OFFICES IN SIDON AREA OVER LAST FEW
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WEEKS. IT SEEMS THAT, DESPITE THE INITIAL EXPLOSION, SAIQA TOOK THE INITIATIVE, PERHAPS BY WAY OF OFFSETTING ITS FAILURES IN THE SIDON AREA.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PALESTINIANS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, REFUGEE CAMPS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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